

1. What was / has been your occupation before entering politics?

I have been a teacher for over 25 years, teaching French, German and Special Education. I have been an acting principal at a French minority language school.

2. Do you live in the riding and, if so, how long has it been your home?

I do live in the riding. We have been living here for approximately 13 years.

3. What has been your main involvement with your community outside of work (volunteer activities, etc.)?

Helping people enrich their lives. I was on the Board of the Training and Learning Centre, which promotes adult literacy and numeracy. I helped found, grow and coach in the Upper Valley Basketball Association for youth. I helped found the Celebrate our River series.

4. In your life what event, or book, or speech, or song or even TV show has made the biggest impression on you and your political thinking? Why?

The biggest influences on my political thinking has been my work as a teacher and my time spent outdoors. In teaching I have seen great disparities from person to person, family to family. We are not all equally advantaged but, with the right supports, we can all go on to lead fulfilling, productive lives. The classroom has shown me that we all do better when we live and work in harmony, caring for each other. Through my outdoor pursuits I have come to appreciate the natural world. This brings with it a responsibility to share with others the need to protect it.

5. What previous politician, (alive or dead, but not currently in parliament) is a role model for you?

Stephen Lewis. His work as the leader of the Ontario NDP advocating for ordinary Canadians with issues such as workplace safety and rent controls enlightened me to the need for government to stand for all of us. As the UN envoy for HIV / AIDS in Africa he brought the attention of the world to the pandemic, spoke plainly against disinformation and convinced leaders and the wider world of our global responsibility to respond. He eloquently engineered simple solutions to seemingly insurmountable problems. He never stops, he is now advocating for immediate action on climate protection.

6. What policy in your party's platform do you think matters most to the people in your riding?

People are telling me that climate action is their topmost priority. We are very concerned about social issues such as good jobs, affordable housing, pharmacare, growing small businesses etc but a healthy, diverse planet is paramount. In RNP we have recently lived through two “floods of the century”. We have experienced hotter and drier summers than our previous norm. Our last winter ended with record snow melt. For ten years, the incumbent sat on the backbenches of a government which ignored climate science and muzzled scientists. We need large and small scale actions toward protecting our environment now!

7. Recent polls suggest many Canadians are disillusioned with politics. If elected, what would you do to address those concerns?

In general, I hear people saying that (a) politics seem to be far removed from their everyday life and (b) the negativity is off-putting. I propose that we bring the ability to have input to the people where they live. Bring people together to discuss the issues. Being in a room with people discussing how to go forward would not only reveal many facets of the issue but bring back civility to the discourse. It would be a great way to take the pulse of the riding and for people to have regular opportunities to engage in political life.